Students are admitted to UCSC with a "proposed major" in most cases, and later petition to officially declare the major. Admission to UCSC does not guarantee acceptance into a particular major. Students must be declared in a major by the end of the second year (or equivalent), so learning about and preparing for a major is a primary goal for first-year students.

**Major:** BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY B.S.

**Importance of an early start:**
This is a course-intensive and/or highly sequential program, and students who intend to pursue this major must begin taking classes for the major in their first term at UCSC.

**Qualification requirements and/or prerequisites for the major:**
To qualify to declare students must achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater in the following courses:

- CHEM 1B: General Chemistry
- CHEM 1C: General Chemistry
- CHEM 8A: Organic Chemistry
- BIOL 20A: Cell and Molecular Biology

and one of the following calculus courses

- MATH 11A: Calculus with Applications
- MATH 19A: Calculus for Science, Engineering and Mathematics

**Frosh who intend to pursue this major should do the following things prior to the beginning of fall term...**
- Determine your Math Placement by completing an assessment in ALEKS before July 17 at [http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/math-placement/mp-assessment-guidelines.html](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/enrollment/math/math-placement/mp-assessment-guidelines.html). If you completed a college-level math course, or scored 3 or better on an AP or IB calculus exam, you may be able to use that for placement instead of the ALEKS assessment.

**...and should take these courses their first term:**
- The appropriate Mathematics class based on placement and Chemistry 1A or 1B

**Sample first year plan:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>MATH 11A</td>
<td>Calculus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHEM 1A</td>
<td>General Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>MATH 11B</td>
<td>Calculus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHEM 1B/M</td>
<td>General Chemistry with lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>MATH 22</td>
<td>Introduction To Calculus Of Several Variables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHEM 1C/N</td>
<td>General Chemistry with lab</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Skills important for success in this major:**
- Critical and logical thought, complex problem solving using scientific rules and methods, deductive and inductive reasoning.

**Links to More Information:**
- [http://admissions.ucsc.edu/academics/majors/](http://admissions.ucsc.edu/academics/majors/) (general info)
- [http://registrar.ucsc.edu/catalog/programs-courses/](http://registrar.ucsc.edu/catalog/programs-courses/) (major requirements, course descriptions, etc.)
- [http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/biochemistry/](http://undergrad.pbsci.ucsc.edu/biochemistry/) (program website)

**Questions? Contact an Adviser!**
- Brenna Candelaria
- 459-4143 or chemistryadvising@ucsc.edu
- 142 Jack Baskin Engineering Building